

**BIOSCIENCE FOR INDUSTRY STRATEGY PANEL**

**MEETING: 2 MARCH 2009**

**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF 23 SEPTEMBER 2008 BIOSCIENCE FOR INDUSTRY STRATEGY PANEL MEETING**

**SUMMARY**

The Minutes of the 23 September 2008 Bioscience for Industry Strategy Panel Meeting are attached at **Annex 1**.

**ACTION**

The Panel is invited to **AGREE** the Minutes of the 23 September 2008 Meeting.

**ANNEXES**

Annex 1 Minutes of the 23 September 2008 Meeting

**Innovation and Skills Group  
March 2009**

**DRAFT**

**BIOSCIENCE FOR INDUSTRY STRATEGY PANEL**

Minutes of the Bioscience for Industry (BSI) Strategy Panel meeting held on 23 September 2008 at the Hotel Russell, 1 - 8 Russell Square, London.

**ATTENDEES**

Panel Members

Malcolm Skingle, GSK (Chair)  
John Coggins, University of Glasgow  
Lloyd Czaplewski, Prolysis  
Colin Dennis, CCFRA  
Sir Ben Gill, Hawkhill Consultancy Ltd  
Sarah Haywood, BERR  
Harren Jhoti, Astex Therapeutics  
Linda Magee, Bionow  
Katherine Smart, University of Nottingham

TSB

Merlin Goldman

BBSRC Executive

Douglas Kell (Chief Executive from 1 October 2008)  
Celia Caulcott  
Doug Yarrow  
Karen Lewis  
Andy Cureton  
Kristine Cherry (Secretary)  
Alex Chaix  
Ian Lyne  
Paul Burrows

**APOLOGIES**

1. Apologies were received from Lewis Smith (Syngenta), Mark Carver (Avecia) and Tom Hockaday (Isis).

**INTRODUCTION**

2. The Chair welcomed the Panel Members to the eleventh meeting of the BSI Strategy Panel and introduced Celia Caulcott (BBSRC), Kristine Cherry (BBSRC), Alex Chaix (BBSRC), and Merlin Goldman (TSB). Congratulations were given to Douglas Kell for his appointment as BBSRC Chief Executive effective 1 October 2008.

**MINUTES OF THE BSI STRATEGY PANEL MEETING HELD ON 29 APRIL 2008 (BSI13-08)**

3. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the BSI Strategy Panel meeting on the 29 April 2008.

**MATTERS ARISING (ORAL)**

4. The Panel noted matters arising from the previous meeting not covered elsewhere in the agenda. These included:
  - BBSRC Executive had circulated to the Panel, the advertisement for positions on BBSRC Research Committees and Strategy Panels. The closing date for applications was 23 June 2008. A good response had been elicited, including applicants from the private sector.
  - A Report on 'the Land of Plenty Conference' from Sir Ben Gill. Further information can be found at [www.landofplentyconference.com](http://www.landofplentyconference.com).
  - A workshop, 'Adopting a Systems Biology Approach to Animal Physiology' had been organised, by BBSRC Executive, to take place on 23 September 2008.
  - The BBSRC Biorefining Club (IBTI Club) had been launched in partnership with Bioscience for Business KTN and 10 companies. The closing date for the first call for proposals was 15 October 2008.
  - EPSRC has agreed to update BBSRC on progress in their bioimaging initiative with CRUK.
  - BBSRC Executive has launched economic impact incentives schemes for Innovator of the Year and departmental awards, Excellence with Impact. These schemes are in support of the BBSRC plans to embed an economic impact culture in universities.
  - BBSRC Executive has reviewed the report on the Economic Impact of Higher Education Qualifications carried out by the Royal Society of Chemistry, which can be found at [http://www.iop.org/activity/policy/Publications/file\\_4149.pdf](http://www.iop.org/activity/policy/Publications/file_4149.pdf). The survey was considered to be of limited relevance to the planned Economic Impact Study of PhD students.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (ORAL)**

5. The Chairman reported that following meetings with TSB, the TSB offer letter had been amended to take account of company concerns. He also reported that he had been part of a working group that had developed standard consortia agreements. The new agreements would be launched at Innovate 08. The Chairman had represented BSI at BBSRC Committee Chairs meeting in June/July and communicated information on the Technology Strategy and other BSI activities in addition to being part of the selection panel for the Research Councils Business Plan Competition.

**FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK FOR ECONOMIC IMPACT ACTIVITIES (BSI14-08)**

6. BBSRC's Delivery Plan for 2008–2011 sets out plans to significantly increase the economic and social impact of the research it funds. Much of this activity will be driven by increased funding for KT and collaborative research activities within the remit of the BSI Panel. Doug Yarrow provided a financial breakdown of BBSRC's collaborative R&D and KT activities over the Delivery Plan Period.

**PROMOTING COLLABORATIVE R&D: IMPLEMENTING THE BBSRC TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY UNDERPINNING INDUSTRIAL NEEDS (BSI15-08)**

7. Karen Lewis updated the Panel on delivery of collaborative R&D through the BBSRC Technology Strategy, including progress against current priorities and potential new areas.
8. Paul Burrows outlined plans for the development of the new Strategic Plan for BBSRC. The new Strategic Plan will include the development of a new Vision for BBSRC and will be coordinated with development of the 2011 Spending Review. The new Vision and Strategic Plan will align with the current versions, but look forward to the 2009 - 2014 timeframe.

**ACTION:** BBSRC Executive to circulate one page summary on issues for the Panel to consider for the next BBSRC Vision, Strategic Plan, and Spending Review.

9. The Panel were provided with a summary of outcomes from the Technology Strategy Review that had taken place on the previous day and discussed the mechanisms and outcomes. The Panel considered the discussion groups were positive and productive, recognising that the scoring system was a loose way to structure discussions and not meant for strict interpretation. Time limitations had prevented discussion of priority overlap with other Research Councils, but the Panel recommended this interface be examined when revising the Technology Strategy. Generally, the Panel felt the Technology Strategy is too broad in the number of priorities and needed to be more focused through merging priorities.

**ACTION:** BBSRC Executive to summarise the outcomes from the discussions reviewing the Technology Strategy and circulate to Panel Members for comment. In light of this BBSRC Executive to revise the current Technology Strategy, merging priorities where appropriate, and consider how to integrate with wider BBSRC strategy and interfaces with other Research Councils.

**ACTION:** BBSRC Executive to circulate the Royal Society for Chemistry report on the interface between Chemistry and Biology to Panel Members.

**Crops and Crop Production / Farm Animal Genetics and Genomics**

10. Karen Lewis updated the Panel on progress with the Food and Agriculture Sustainable Supply Chain Innovation Platform being developed by TSB and Defra. The proposal would be reviewed by the TSB Governing Board on 1 October, and providing the Board approved the proposal there would be six months to determine implementation mechanisms. For BBSRC, these could include for example, Research and Technology Clubs and Collaborative R&D Competitions.
11. The Panel commented that the explanation of the challenge could be strengthened and that the initiative would benefit from addressing all green house gasses, not just carbon.

**ACTION:** BBSRC to provide feedback from the Panel to TSB as appropriate.

**Intelligent Storage, Retrieval and Analysis of Large Data Sets**

12. The Panel was updated on planning for a scoping workshop to establish and prioritise the needs of industry in this area. Participants would include experts

from multiple sectors who will be asked to focus on themes of different types of data to determine challenges.

13. The Panel supported the development of the scoping workshop and agreed to suggest participants.

**ACTION:** BBSRC Executive to continue with plans for an Industry Scoping workshop on the analysis of large data sets.

**ACTION:** Panel to suggest expert participants from industry for the upcoming workshop on analysis of large data sets.

### **Instrumentation / Measurement and Bioimaging**

14. Andy Cureton updated the panel on plans for taking forward the priority. The BBSRC Executive will determine current funding levels in this area and present findings to the Panel at the next meeting.

15. Plans were introduced for a showcase of BBSRC-funded research to share with industry relevant work already being done in the priority area.

16. The Panel supported the idea of a “showcase event” and recommended EPSRC be involved.

**ACTION:** BBSRC Executive to take forward plans for an analysis of BBSRC-funded research in bioimaging to be presented at the next BSI meeting.

**ACTION:** BBSRC Executive to take forward plans for a Showcase Event to increase the understanding of companies of BBSRC funded research in bioimaging and facilitate networking between companies and academics in the field.

### **Ageing**

17. Andy Cureton updated the Panel on the proposal for an Ageing Research and Technology Club. Jonathan Powell (Unilever) has been moving forward on identifying generic research areas of interest to sectors including pharma, food, insurance and healthcare providers. A document is being developed to take to companies early next year to gauge interest. Engaging healthcare providers was proving to be particularly challenging and Panel members were asked to suggest any contacts they had.

**ACTION:** BBSRC Executive to continue to take forward plans to develop a Research and Technology Club in Ageing consulting with industry as appropriate.

**ACTION:** Panel Members to suggest contacts, where possible, in the healthcare provider industry that may be interested in participating in a Research and Technology Club on Ageing.

### **Design of Biopharmaceuticals**

18. Andy Cureton updated the Panel on BBSRC plans for follow-on to the Ithaka report. BBSRC will re-engage companies that participated in the initial survey and others with an interest in the area to find out how they rate the challenges highlighted in the report. A follow-up survey is being developed to facilitate these discussions.

19. The Panel supported the development of a follow-up survey and agreed plans should move forward for the development of a Working Group, if appropriate.

**ACTION:** BBSRC Executive to take forward plans to focus and better understand the potential generic research challenges in biopharmaceutical development arising from the Ithaka report.

### **Bioprocessing**

20. Karen Lewis updated the Panel on BRIC activities. The Club has distributed all of its research funding and an interim evaluation is planned to assess the success of the Club and future opportunities. BBSRC's Corporate Policy and Strategy Group will undertake the evaluation and will report December 2008. The outcome of the evaluation will be peer reviewed by an independent panel. In addition a Working Group would be established to consider future needs in this area, taking into account the outcome of the evaluation and views of the wider stakeholder community.

21. The Panel supported the plan for BRIC evaluation and developing plans for future needs.

### **INTERACTION WITH THE TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY BOARD (TSB) (BSI16-08)**

22. Karen Lewis outlined BBSRC's current interactions with the TSB, plans for joint activities, and progress against targets for collaborative and complementary activity.
23. Merlin Goldman presented the current status of the draft TSB strategies for Biosciences and Medicines and Healthcare. Implementation mechanisms will include for example, collaborative R&D competitions, demonstrator projects, and support for follow-on Club activities.

### **UPDATE ON INNOVATION GROWTH TEAM PROJECTS FROM BERR (ORAL)**

24. Sarah Haywood provided the Panel with an update on the progress of the two Innovation Growth Teams (IGTs) managed by BERR. The Bioscience IGT report review and refresh is expected to be released in early 2009. Key issues in the update will include recommendations on the interface between academia and industry and a continued focus on skill development.
25. The Industrial Biotechnology IGT is expected to release its first report in April 2009. Panel members can expect requests for consultation on the draft report in November/December. It was agreed that BERR should work with BBSRC Executive to take recommendations forward.

**ACTION:** Sarah Haywood to work with BBSRC Executive to take forward IGT recommendations.

**ACTION:** Agenda item to be included for the next Panel meeting to discuss recommendations from IGTs of relevance to BBSRC.

26. The Panel commented on ways to strengthen the interface between industry and academia where the Praxis workshop for Industrial Liaison Offices on leveraging funding was highlighted. However, the Panel noted that RAE had been a barrier to strengthening the interface in the past and current plans for REF would still

create a barrier. The Panel agreed that it was important that industry should make their concerns about REF known to relevant Ministers.

**ACTION:** Malcolm Skingle to provide details of Praxis workshop on leveraging funding to BBSRC Executive for circulation to Panel Members.

**ACTION:** BBSRC Executive to circulate RCUK response to REF consultation to Panel Members.

### **INDUSTRIALLY RELEVANT TRAINING AND SKILLS (BSI17-08)**

27. Ian Lyne introduced a proposal for a five-year rolling plan for Targeted Priority Studentships. Drawing on suggestions from the previous day's discussion of the Technology Strategy areas such as agronomy, entomology, in vivo skills, and data analysis and curation were recognised as areas of skills need, as well as the need to support a broader culture change around the career development of students and early-career researchers. Ways to address these needs were discussed including targeted PhD studentships, masters programmes, professional and generic skills courses, and industrial doctorate centres.

28. The Panel suggested developing a mechanism to encourage the transfer of industry expertise into academia through funding for experienced industry scientists to return to academic settings, where there was a timely opportunity in the current economic climate particularly in the Pharmaceutical sector.

**ACTION:** BBSRC Executive to consider how training needs identified by the Panel and the concept of Industrial Doctorates could be taken forward

**ACTION:** BBSRC Executive to consider the development of 'Industrial Skills Fellowships' to support industrial scientist that wish to move into academia.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

29. The Chair thanked Tom Hockaday, Colin Dennis, and John Coggins, who retire from the Panel at the end of the year, for their contributions to BSI and Doug Yarrow who would be retiring from BBSRC.

30. The Panel were asked to consider participation in the assessment panel for the Innovator of the Year Award.

31. The Panel were reminded that the following items are provided for BSI to note.

- ITEM 11 Update on Knowledge Transfer and Industrial Collaboration Activities (BSI18-08)
- ITEM 12 Evaluation Plans (BSI19-08)
- ITEM 13 Reports from Other Strategy Panels (BSI20-08)

**ACTION:** BBSRC Executive to email Panel Members asking them to consider participation in the assessment panel for the Innovator of The Year Award.

### **CLOSE OF MEETING**

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

### Strategic Plan Development

- BBSRC Executive to circulate one page summary on issues for the Panel to consider for the next BBSRC Vision, Strategic Plan, and Spending Review.

### Technology Strategy

- BBSRC Executive to summarise the outcomes from the discussions reviewing the Technology Strategy and circulate to Panel Members for comment. In light of this BBSRC Executive to revise the current Technology Strategy, merging priorities where appropriate, and consider how to integrate with wider BBSRC strategy and interfaces with other Research Councils.
- BBSRC Executive to circulate the Royal Society for Chemistry report on the interface between Chemistry and Biology to Panel Members.

### Crops and Crop Production

- BBSRC to provide feedback from the Panel to TSB as appropriate.

### Intelligent storage and retrieval of large data sets

- BBSRC Executive to continue with plans for an Industry Scoping workshop on the analysis of large data sets.
- Panel to suggest expert participants from industry for the upcoming workshop on analysis of large data sets.

### Instrumentation, Measurements and Bioimaging

- BBSRC Executive to take forward plans for an analysis of BBSRC-funded research in bioimaging to be presented at the next BSI meeting.
- BBSRC Executive to take forward plans for a Showcase Event to increase the understanding of companies of BBSRC funded research in bioimaging and facilitate networking between companies and academics in the field.

### Ageing

- BBSRC Executive to continue to take forward plans to develop a Research and Technology Club in Ageing consulting with industry as appropriate.
- Panel Members to suggest contacts, where possible, in the healthcare provider industry that may be interested in participating in a Research and Technology Club on Ageing.

### Design of Biopharmaceuticals

- BBSRC Executive to take forward plans to focus and better understand the potential generic research challenges in biopharmaceutical development arising from the Ithaka report.

### Innovation Growth Team Projects

- Sarah Haywood to work with BBSRC Executive to take forward IGT recommendations.

- Agenda item to be included for the next Panel meeting to discuss recommendations from IGTs of relevance to BBSRC.
- Malcolm Skingle to provide details of Praxis workshop on leveraging funding to BBSRC Executive for circulation to Panel Members.
- BBSRC Executive to circulate RCUK response to REF consultation to Panel Members.

**Industrially Relevant Training and Skills**

- BBSRC Executive to consider how training needs identified by the Panel and the concept of Industrial Doctorates could be taken forward
- BBSRC Executive to consider the development of 'Industrial Skills Fellowships' to support industrial scientist that wish to move into academia.

**Any other Business**

- BBSRC Executive to email Panel Members asking them to consider participation in the assessment panel for the Innovator of The Year Award.